

Castro's 2 December TV speech marking the establishment of

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DATE: ~~12/21/79~~ REVIEWER:

the United Party of the Socialist Revolution was the Cuban premier's first open admission that the Cuban revolution has become completely identified with and subservient to the methods and goals of Communism. Its publication at this time may be interpreted as meaning that regime leaders are now confident that the revolution is strong enough to withstand any adverse internal repercussions or external criticism. Castro's open disavowal of a neutralist policy for Cuba may sharpen the lines between pro- and anti-Castro factions within Latin American countries like Mexico, Argentina and Brazil, which are reluctant to act against his regime, but it's too early to say whether it will cause any major shift in the Cuban policies of these countries.

The new Cuban mass political organization has been in the works since at least 26 July, when Castro announced the formation of the so-called "Integrated Revolutionary Organizations" (ORI) as an intermediate step in the formation of a united party. Since that time it has been evident in the speeches and statements of regime leaders and in the makeup of ORI units established throughout the island that the political vehicle of the revolution would be controlled by the Communists at all levels of administration and would, in short, be patterned closely after the political organizations found in bloc countries.

By referring in his 2 December speech to Cuba's need to learn from the Soviet Union and also by rejecting the "cult of personality," Castro affirmed that his regime looks primarily to the Soviet Union rather than to Communist China for ideological guidance. His characterization of the party's program as Marxist-Leninist but adapted to conditions within Cuba gives some room for departure from the basic bloc pattern in Cuba's development toward Communism. Such differences, while they may be regarded as minuscule by the free world, are apt to be emphasized by Moscow which is reluctant to be committed to regarding Cuba as a member of the bloc.